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## Saguaro National Park News Release

*For Immediate Release*

April 25, 2011

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### May Programs Offered at Saguaro National Park

Saguaro National Park is offering special programs this spring that explore the park's wonderful natural and cultural history. Come along on a naturalist-led evening walk in the park, or join a local expert for a presentation in one of our visitor centers. *Programs are offered at both the east and west districts.* Interpretive programs are free, but park entrance fees apply. Program schedules are subject to change – call the visitor centers for schedule updates or for reservations.

#### **Special Programs offered at the Tucson Mountain District (Saguaro West) include:**

**May 1, 5, 8, 12, 13 15, 19, 23, 25, 26, 30, 31      9:45 a.m.      Neighborhood Characters      45 min. talk**

An easy morning walk in the Cactus Garden will bring you face to thorns with plants that may remind you of people you know, friendly and otherwise. *This program is wheelchair accessible.* ♿

**May 1, 7, 8, 14, 15, 21, 22, 28, 29      10:45 & 3:15      Saguaro: Not Just a Pretty Face      45 min. illustrated talk**

What has droopy arms, upward arms, no arms, multiple arms, serves as a hotel, and loves dry arid climates? Find out what's growing in the Saguaro National Park. *This program is wheelchair accessible.* ♿

**May 1, 5, 8, 12, 15, 16, 19, 23, 25, 26, 30      2:15 p.m.      Road Kill Restaurant      45 min. talk**

The Road Kill menu changes daily but, unfortunately, is always plentiful. Find out what is being done and what you can do to help protect both motorists and animals. *This program is wheelchair accessible.* ♿

**May 3, 10, 17, 24, 31      2:15 p.m.      Meet the Cuckoo of the Desert      45 min. illustrated talk**

Learn about the natural history, behavior and other fascinating facts about this colorful creature: the roadrunner. *This program is wheelchair accessible.* ♿

**May 6, 7, 13, 14, 20, 21, 27, 28      2:15 p.m.      The CCC in Saguaro National Park      45 min. illustrated talk**

The Civilian Conservation Corps was a Depression-era work program that had a great influence on parks throughout the Nation. Saguaro's trails, picnic areas, and scenic drives were established during this program. A brief history of the CCC in this area will be illustrated with old photos and movie clips. *Program is wheelchair accessible.* ♿

**May 20      7:00 p.m.      The Desert After Dark      easy ¼ mile walk**

Join a Park naturalist right around sunset for a PowerPoint slide presentation about the animals--and plants!--that come to life in the desert after the sun goes down. After the program, we'll take a short walk around the Visitor Center to see if we can't find some of these denizens of darkness. Total program length is 90 minutes.

**May 28      3:00 p.m.      Rattlesnakes of Arizona      special guest speaker**

Arizona has the largest and most diverse number of rattlesnake species of any other state. Rattlesnakes' reputation and legend are well known worldwide, but after seeing Manny Rubio's presentation you will better understand their role in nature and their magnificent beauty. The author will sign copies of his new book "Rattlesnakes of the United States & Canada" after his presentation. *This program is wheelchair accessible.* ♿

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#### EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

## **Special Programs offered at the Rincon Mountain District (Saguaro East) include:**

**May 1, 4, 11, 18 & 25**      **3:00 p.m.**      **People and Places of Saguaro's Past**      *illustrated talk*  
Join Park Ranger Arlo Ogden in the visitor center auditorium for this photo tour of the park's historic past, focusing on the stories told by its historic structures. *This program is wheelchair accessible.* ♿

**May 5**      **7:00 p.m.**      **Living With and Without Reptiles**      *illustrated talk*  
Join naturalist Bob Brander in the visitor center auditorium to learn about the biology of Sonoran Desert reptiles and how we can share this desert with them. *This program is wheelchair accessible.* ♿

**May 6 & 20**      **7:00 p.m.**      **Night Walk**      *1 mile hike*  
Join a park naturalist for this easy 2-hour hike to explore and experience the Sonoran Desert at night. Dress for the weather, wear comfortable walking shoes, and bring water and a flashlight. As space is limited, reservations are required, and can be made by calling 733-5153.

**May 7, 14, 21 & 28**      **11:00 a.m.**      **Saguaro National Park: A Common Heritage**      *video*  
This 20-minute video explores the history and heritage of those who settled the Tanque Verde and Rincon Valleys. *This program is wheelchair accessible.* ♿

**May 8, 15, 22 & 29**      **3:00 p.m.**      **Yesterday, Today ...and Saguaro?**      *illustrated talk*  
What will the world's changing climate mean for the National Parks? Will our children find glaciers in Glacier, coral reefs in Hawaii, Joshua trees in Joshua Tree? And what does a warmer, drier Arizona future hold for our signature Giant Saguaro? Ranger Jeff Wallner will pose these questions that only your future decisions can answer. Meet at the visitor center for this 45-minute auditorium presentation. *This program is wheelchair accessible.* ♿

## **Daily Programs**

The park's two districts offer additional daily interpretive programs not listed here. Contact either of our visitor centers for updated schedules, or visit our website online at <http://www.nps.gov/sagu/planyourvisit/things2do.htm>.

## **Visitor Center Locations/Phone Numbers**

Both visitor centers are open daily from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, except Christmas Day.

Red Hills Visitor Center (Saguaro WEST)  
2700 North Kinney Road  
Tucson, AZ 85743

(520) 733-5158

Rincon Mountain Visitor Center (Saguaro EAST)  
3693 South Old Spanish Trail  
Tucson, AZ 85730

(520) 733-5153

For more information about Saguaro National Park and some of its partners, Friends of Saguaro National Park, Western National Parks Association, and the Rincon Institute, visit these websites:

[www.nps.gov/sagu](http://www.nps.gov/sagu)  
[www.friendsofsaguaro.org](http://www.friendsofsaguaro.org)

[www.wnpa.org](http://www.wnpa.org)  
[www.rinconinstitute.org](http://www.rinconinstitute.org)